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Ivry panel cautions four officers

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The Ivry Commission investigating the February 4 helicopter collision, in which 73 soldiers and officers were killed, has sent out letters of caution to three IAF officers and an officer in the Northern Command. The move paves the way for recommendations to be made against them.

The wording of the invitation to the four to study the investigation "out of the possibility their good names may be harmed" is a military euphemism for cautioning them that their testimony could be used against them. The four have hired lawyers, who are reportedly seeking a delay in the commission's discussions in order to prepare a possible defense.

The four officers named are Brig.-Gen. G, the commander of Tel Nof Air Base, where the CH-53 helicopter squadrons are based. Yasur squadron commander Lt.-Col. E, his deputy, Maj. Y, and Maj. A, operations officer for the Galilee Panhandle brigade.

According to the commission's interim report, Maj. Y briefed the pilots of the fatal flight to fly in formation, but did not appoint a formation leader. Maj. A was cited with faults in making sure the soldiers who boarded the helicopters were properly logged. The commission stressed that the cautions in no way signify direct responsibility for the collision.

According to Channel 1 television, the four officers are allowed to examine all files in the investigation and question any witness. The four have been invited to commission hearings in another six days.

The commission of inquiry, headed by former air force chief David Ivry, was originally given 45 days to present its final findings and had been expected to do so within the next two weeks. But the letters of caution open the door to further delay.

Cabinet to decide on next withdrawal today

PM, Mubarak meet in Cairo

News agencies

CAIRO - The cabinet is to meet this afternoon in a special session to decide on the extent of the first further withdrawal from the territories since the Hebron pullout in January. According to the Hebron agreement, the IDF must make the first of three more redeployments in Judea and Samaria by tomorrow.

PA offices served closure notices, Page 2



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak meet in Cairo yesterday. (Reuters)

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is to convene his inner cabinet this morning to prepare a withdrawal proposal.

Netanyahu and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak concluded two hours of talks on the peace process yesterday by disagreeing about whether the Oslo Accords bar the building of Jewish housing in Jerusalem.

Both Mubarak and Netanyahu urged moving forward with peace talks, but they appeared tense and sometimes angry as questions arose at a news conference about Israel's plans for 6,500 housing units on Har Homa, in southern Jerusalem.

Netanyahu denied the housing project is prohibited by the Oslo Accords and said he confirmed this with the Israeli negotiators who helped frame the agreement.

"Oslo is very clear," he said. "It doesn't deal at all with the question of Jerusalem. In fact it makes clear that any actions regarding changing the status involve, as Oslo terms it, the West Bank and Gaza. It specifically excludes Jerusalem."

Mubarak, however, pointed out

that the agreement's Article 5 states that Jerusalem's future is to be negotiated in talks for a final peace and argued that moving more Jews into east Jerusalem now would prejudice those negotiations.

"My feeling is that it [the housing project] will lead to problems in the future when they start on the final status of Jerusalem," he told reporters.

Mubarak said he would further discuss the Har Homa issue next week in a meeting in Washington with President Bill Clinton, who also has criticized the plan.

At the news conference with Netanyahu, Mubarak was also asked about the case of alleged Israeli spy Azzam Azzam. Mubarak

said the matter is out of his hands now that it has entered the judicial system.

Netanyahu said on Tuesday that Azzam, a 35-year-old chief mechanic who was working at an Israeli-owned factory in Egypt, is innocent and that the case would be at the top of his agenda in talks with Mubarak.

Asked if he would agree to release the Israeli, Mubarak said: "This case is before the court. We have no authority to exclude it from the court until it comes to an end. Before that we are not authorized, even our constitution doesn't give us the right to do anything or to release him."

Mubarak again said that Israeli

publicity about Azzam's case had damaged his chances and he compared it to an earlier incident in which the Egyptian authorities discreetly set free two suspected Israeli spies.

"With the last one [Azzam] there is definite proof according to the investigation done by the court. So that's why we could not release him," he said.

"The first two were released before going through the media. When the media declared about Azzam, we were in a position not to leave him and he should defend himself. If he is innocent, he is going to be released without any problem," he added.

Netanyahu stood to Mubarak's

side but did not comment on the espionage case throughout the news conference.

Two of Azzam's supporters accompanied Netanyahu to Cairo to plead his case. They said they visited Azzam in prison yesterday and that he was being treated well.

Assad Assad, an adviser to Netanyahu and a former member of the Knesset, told reporters he discussed Azzam's case with Mubarak's senior political adviser Osama Baz.

"I found Azzam in good shape. Egyptian prison authorities are treating him well. I have faith in the Egyptian justice and judiciary," Assad said.

COMMENT

She'ar Yashuv helicopter crash: A month later

By HERB KEINON

The regularly scheduled television programming on the night of February 4 was interrupted by a news flash that always signals disaster: two helicopters crashed over She'ar Yashuv. The dimensions of the tragedy, 73 dead, shocked the nation, left us stunned in our tracks. Our regularly scheduled lives were interrupted, put on hold.

A national day of mourning followed, and with it the broadcasting of the endless list of names. Then came the gut-wrenching stories of the lives lost, and then came the funerals. The nation stood as one - unified in pain, together in grief.

For a day... maybe half a week. But it didn't take long for the unity that the tragedy engendered to be plowed under by the rock-slide that is the Bar-On Affair. It didn't take long for the unity to be drowned out by the noise surrounding Har Homa. How quickly everything returns to normal.

Today marks 30 days since the helicopter disaster. The 30-day, halachically prescribed mourning period - the *shloshim* - varies for each family, since this period is counted from the day of interment, not from the day of death.

The next few days will, for the families, be a time of trips to the cemeteries, of looking at pictures - if that is not too painful. It will be a time for the families to relieve that awful night which, in their minds, will forever be the moment against which all else will be measured. There will be *Beifore*, and there will be *After*.

For the rest of us the helicopter disaster will be stored somewhere in our memory, as yet another of those awful tragedies that, with cruel regularity, plague the land. It will be stored - perhaps near the top of the list, due to its magnitude - with the bus bombings, the roadside bombs in Lebanon, the victims

of other IDF accidents. When we think of it we will be beset by sadness - so we will try not to think about it.

This nation's resiliency, its uncanny ability to bounce back, is both a strength and - to a certain extent - a weakness. A strength, because only incredible resiliency could enable the survival of a nation so well acquainted with tragedy. A weakness, because only in times of tragedy do we remember what unites, what is important.

It is not uncommon to use man as a metaphor for the nation. A death in the family always puts things into perspective, into proper proportion. For a family it generally takes a while for the magnitude of the loss to diminish, for life to return to normal. Thus does Judaism set aside a 30-day mourning period for an immediate relative, a 12-month mourning period for a parent.

The nation, our nation, speeds things along. Not a year was needed to digest the loss of February 4, and to move on. Not even 30 days. To a certain extent, not even a week. Everything quickly returned to normal.

Is this necessary? I guess so, if we are to function as a normal country.

Is it heartless? To a certain extent.

We have turned into a nation of *parshiot* - of episodes, affairs, and incidents. The rhythm of our public life is marked by jumping from one parasha to the next: from the Hebron redeployment, to the helicopter accident, to the Bar-On Affair. Events follow one another in such rapid succession that we have no time to digest the significance and ramifications of one, before we are hit by another.

The helicopter tragedy, when it struck, drowned out the Bar-On Affair for about a week. But then the Bar-On Affair bounced back. The same will not be true of the helicopter tragedy. It is gone. We spent our time on that particular parasha, and have moved on. We muttered the words, performed the gestures, and then moved on. We always move on.

Turbowicz says no to Bezeq

By JUDY SEGEL

Attorney Yoram Turbowicz, appointed by a Justice Ministry-appointed committee from becoming Bezeq's director-general on March 1, last night shocked Communications Minister Limor Livnat by saying she would have to find someone else for the job.

Livnat, who had nominated the former director of the Antitrust Authority for the Bezeq post, was very distressed by Turbowicz's decision and tried to dissuade him, but with no success.

She will appear today at Bezeq's board of directors meeting, where officials are expected to speak angrily against the "cooling off" committee, chaired by Jerusalem District Court Judge Yehudit Tsur, which ruled that Turbowicz would have to wait a year before taking the job.

The board will name an acting director-general; Livnat's choice was not known last night.

She told Turbowicz that his declining of the Bezeq position was a "loss to the company and to the entire public service, which deserves and needs the best."

The 38-year-old lawyer faxed Livnat a letter saying he was disappointed about the committee's decision, but nevertheless "respected it."

Livnat had intended to take the case, in an unprecedented action, to the High Court or ask for a repeat hearing of the cooling-off committee.

But Turbowicz does not want to appeal.

Swiss president proposes second 'humanitarian' fund

BERN - Swiss President Arnold Koller yesterday proposed creating a second "humanitarian" fund that would use millions of francs in income from Swiss official gold reserves to aid victims of human rights abuses, catastrophes and the Holocaust.

The "Swiss Foundation for Solidarity" would be set up next year, in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the Swiss Constitution, Koller told a special joint session of parliament.

Christoph Blocher, an industrialist and member of Parliament, immediately rejected the idea, saying the council "has lost its head."

Israel, however, hailed the plan.

"Any action taken by the Swiss government in the direction of dealing with these issues in order to try and correct injustices of the past is certainly welcome," said Moshe Fogel, head of the Government Press Office.

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, a leader in the campaign for Swiss restitution, said, "This is without doubt a far-reaching decision."

Abraham Foxman, the head of the Anti-Defamation League, said the Swiss move now puts pressure on the other nations neutral during the war - Sweden, Spain, Turkey and Portugal - to come to terms with their wartime

roles.

The foundation, which would benefit individuals in Switzerland and abroad, would be financed using the profits of the Swiss National Bank's extensive gold reserves. The recipients would be victims of poverty and catastrophes, of genocide and human rights violations, including Holocaust victims, Koller said.

Needy Holocaust victims will also be the beneficiaries of a separate fund, now valued at SF 100 million, that was established last month by the three leading Swiss banks. There had been calls for the Swiss government to contribute to that fund. However, Blocher has publicly opposed using any taxpayer money for any "compensation" program, arguing that Switzerland need not "apologize" for its war-era activities.

The Koller fund would require Parliament's approval, but no funding from the federal budget. In neither case was it clear what the specific criteria for eligibility for the funds might entail.

Hans Meyer, chairman of the Swiss National Bank, said Koller's plan was based on revaluing the country's gold reserves, which by law are fixed at an outdated price of SF 4,595 per kilogram.

With the current market value more than three times that much, the Swiss could gradually sell off



Swiss President Arnold Koller speaks at a joint session of parliament in Bern yesterday, when he announced the establishment of a humanitarian fund. (Reuters)

part of the gold and invest the proceeds for the foundation, Meyer said.

Even though the Swiss intend to take 10 years to sell off the gold to avoid any impact on the price, the world's gold markets reacted with concern to Koller's announcement. The price of gold dropped about \$4 an ounce to about \$354 by late afternoon.

The Swiss franc would still be completely backed by gold and retain its value in world money markets, Meyer said, adding that it would probably take two years before the foundation could

begin operating.

David Harris adds: "Creating this fund is an act of goodwill for people of any race," said Knesset Jewish property restitution subcommittee chairman Avraham Herschson (Likud). "Any initiative like this is to be welcomed."

"But let me say this as clearly as possible: nothing can hide the accounts that were opened by Jews in Swiss banks, and we're calling for the revelation of all these accounts, no matter whether they set up this fund or any other."



NEWS

in brief

Zo Artzenu activist arrested

Police arrested Shmuel Sackett, a Zo Artzenu activist, at his home in Karmei Shomron early yesterday morning, and confiscated documents and tapes from the home of Binyamin Ze'ev Kahane's home at Kfar Tapuah.

According to Kahane's neighbor, Lenny Goldberg, police were searching for material connected with the weekly leaflet *Derech Shel Torah*, which Kahane and Sackett distribute to synagogues throughout the country.

Kahane, who was not home at the time of the 6 a.m. police raid, said the police had a search warrant. "Police have been harassing me for almost two years," he said. Radio reports said yesterday that police were searching for seditious material connected with the leaflet.

Margot Dudkevitch

Two killed in motorcycle accidents

Sagi Damari, 17, of Beersheba, was killed early yesterday morning when the motorcycle he was driving swerved and collided head-on with an oncoming van in Beersheba, police said.

In Holon, pedestrian Paulina Koroniuk, 69, of Holon, was struck and killed by a motorcycle as she was crossing the street. The motorcyclist was slightly injured.

Itim

Israeli Arabs call for halt to Har Homa

Israeli Arab leaders called on the government yesterday to rescind the decision to construct Jewish homes on Har Homa and to stop what they described as ongoing excavations beneath the Temple Mount.

The call was made during a visit to the two sites yesterday by members of the monitoring committee, composed of Arab MKs and the forum of Arab Council Heads.

"This decision can only cause a deterioration in the peace process, as well as in relations between the two nations," said Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the Arab Council Heads forum.

David Rudge

Poll: Mordechai leads Netanyahu by 25%

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has the confidence of 77 percent of Jewish adults, compared to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu with 52%, according to a poll taken last week by Modi in Ezrahi on behalf of the Steinmetz Center of Tel Aviv University. Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi had a confidence rating of 42%. A similar poll in August 1996 rated Netanyahu at 64%.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Arafat tells congressmen of assassination attempt

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat told members of Congress late Tuesday that there was an assassination attempt against him in Gaza last week.

According to a congressman who attended the meeting, Arafat said one of his aides, who was also at the event in the Capitol, nearly became a victim too. Arafat motioned to him and the two nodded, the congressman said. Arafat did not provide details on the alleged assassination attempt.

Asked about Arafat's claim, a senior US official said: "I haven't seen anything on that at all. I have not been aware that there have been any focused attempts on him."

During Tuesday's meeting with 25 members of the House of Representatives, Arafat said he was willing to have Americans and Europeans inspect cargo entering a Palestinian seaport to assure that contraband weapons do not enter the territory under his control, which is a major concern of Israel's.

According to New Jersey

Congressman Steve Rothman, Arafat said he would welcome Congress' assistance in obtaining sophisticated weapon-detecting equipment for use at the port. He also asked for Congress' help in obtaining a forensic laboratory, which he told the members the Palestinians do not possess.

Another participant said Arafat criticized Arab countries, particularly those in the Gulf, for not fulfilling their financial pledges to the Palestinians.

"He was not being at all indirect about it. He said: 'We're not getting the help we need,'" the source said.

Meanwhile, Arafat told Security Council members yesterday that Israel was harming the Middle East peace process by planning to build at Har Homa.

He was speaking to reporters after conferring privately with the members of the 15-nation council a few hours before the start of a council debate on Har Homa.

Arafat also met with Jewish leaders yesterday, then left New York to deliver similar messages to two former US presidents - Jimmy Carter in Georgia and George Bush in Texas.

PA offices served closure notices

By ELLI WOHLGELERTER and news agencies

Four Palestinian offices in eastern Jerusalem were served notice by the government last night that they had 96 hours to close their doors.

The notices were served after Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kabalan met with police and security officials at around 6 p.m. last night to discuss the procedure. This followed Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's decision on Tuesday to close the offices.

The US criticized the move last night, saying the decision to shut down the offices was "very difficult to understand."

"As the president and the secretary of state have both said, this is a time when it is very important that the [Middle East] parties take steps that will build confidence between them," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said. "It is therefore very difficult to understand why the Israeli government made such a decision at this time when there is a very difficult ... relationship with the Palestinians."

The timing of the closure notices seemed aimed to coincide with tomorrow's deadline on the next stage of IDF troop pullback from rural areas of the West Bank as well as the start of talks on a permanent peace settlement that are scheduled to begin March 15.

Under the Oslo accords, the PA only may operate in self-rule areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and has no jurisdiction in eastern Jerusalem.

Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki, head of Jerusalem police, said that the notices given to the Palestinian Authority offices "is a request for them to close by themselves. If they don't, we'll do it according to the law, as we have done in other offices in eastern Jerusalem. They'll have 96 hours, and we will check it at the end of the time period, and then we'll make a decision."

The four offices involved were identified by Arabic newspapers as the Palestinian Mapping Office, the Palestinian Small Businesses Project, the Institute for the Wounded and the National Islamic Committee Confronting Settlements.

Palestinian officials charged yesterday that the decision to close the Palestinian offices is

designed to raise tensions and sabotage the peace process.

Netanyahu's senior advisor, David Bar-Ilan, said Israel intended to meet tomorrow's pullback deadline, but first demanded "reciprocity" from the PLO.

"It is impossible for the peace process to continue, for the redeployment [and] other obligations which Israel has to continue without the closing of these offices," he said.

Faisal Hussein, the senior Palestinian official in Jerusalem, called the order to close down the PA offices in Jerusalem a deliberate provocation.

"Although we see that these Israeli measures will cause an explosion, we are trying to save matters by contacting the Israelis and other countries to prevent this [from] happening," he said yesterday.

"I don't want to hear from the Israelis that they did not know what will happen, like they did after the tunnel," he said. "They know, they are certain and they are planning and are heading in that direction consciously and with their full will."

Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian peace negotiator, said that the four offices targeted

for closure had no ties to the PA. He accused Netanyahu of trying to sabotage final status talks before they get off the ground.

PA Information Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo accused Israel of acting in bad faith, including intending to withdraw only from a very small part of the West Bank this week.

Bar-Ilan said the government would decide today on the range of the pullback.

"Once the decision is made, the implementation ... will not take more than 48 hours. We will be living up to the deadline of the seventh of March," he said.

Meanwhile, the PA has called for Palestinians to protest the planned construction at Har Homa by marching to Jerusalem and praying at Al-Aksa tomorrow.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, after meeting with Jordan's King Hussein on Tuesday night, said: "According to the European Union, east Jerusalem is not under the jurisdiction of Israel."

"Israel must prevent the acceptance of decisions which are liable to harm the relationship of trust that is the basis of the peace process."

Hillel Kuttler contributed to this report



Former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir (left) and former chief rabbi Avraham Shapiro meet yesterday in Jerusalem. (Isaac Harari)

Hammer to meet with NRP over redeployment

By LIAT COLLINS and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Education Minister Ze'evul Hammer is to convene the National Religious Party faction this morning. He said yesterday that if there is no need to withdraw from Area C territories (which are under Palestinian civil control and Israeli security control), this should not be done.

"In principle, we don't see this as being the right thing. If there is no clear commitment to it in Oslo, there is no reason to start the first redeployment in Area C," Hammer said in a radio interview from Paris. He cut short his visit in France to be present for today's cabinet meeting.

Third Way faction chairman Yebuda Harel, on the other hand, wrote Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu a letter of support yesterday for trying to further the peace process "and the separation between the Palestinians and Israel." His faction, meanwhile, sent the pre-

mier a detailed map marking the areas it says should remain under Israeli control after the permanent arrangements.

The faction said it would not agree to redeployment from these territories - particularly the Jordan Valley, the Ein Gedi region, the Judean Desert, or the northern Hebron hills - which it says are essential for security reasons. It also demanded no concessions be made in the Greater Jerusalem area and along major roads.

Members of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza are to meet with Netanyahu this afternoon in a last-minute effort to convince him not to agree to withdraw from Area C.

The meeting with Netanyahu will culminate particularly intensive lobbying by the council during the past week. It is to be attended by council chairman Pinhas Wallerstein, director Aharon Domb, Ze'ev Havel, director of Amarna, responsible for setting up and main-

taining settlements, Shaul Mizrahi, the mayor of Givat Ze'ev, and Benny Kashriel, the council's deputy chairman and mayor of Ma'aleh Adumim.

The aim of the meeting, said Yehiel Leiter, head of the council's foreign desk, "is to press our position that, according to the Oslo agreement, we are under no obligation to withdraw from Area C, and to minimize as much as possible withdrawal from Area B, where at least we will still have military control."

According to Leiter, the intensive lobbying appears to have paid off to some extent. "You have Yisrael Ba'aluya saying they won't vote until they have a complete picture or details of all three stages, and the Third Way says the same."

A meeting yesterday between former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir and former chief rabbi Avraham Shapiro was not initiated by the council, says Leiter, but by former chairman Aharon Domb, who represents a minority wishing to take an anti-Netanyahu stand.

BACKGROUND

Only one office affiliated with the PA

By JON IMMANUEL

None of the eastern Jerusalem offices ordered closed by the government have been mentioned in connection with PA activities in the past, except for the Geographic Research and Information Center.

According to the east Jerusalem daily, *Al Quds*, the other three offices are the office for micro-projects, the prisoners' club, and the Islamic Committee for struggle against settlements.

The geographic office, headed by Khalil Tufakji, is located in Faisal Hussein's Arab Studies Society next to Orient House. However, "I have not been ordered closed," Tufakji said last night.

Tufakji draws up maps showing planned settlements and roads. He has worked with Palestinian negotiators, but he is not a PA official. His mapping office, like Orient House, began functioning in Jerusalem long before the Oslo agreements.

The office of micro-projects in Wadi Joz is a non-governmental organization, according to several Palestinian sources, and is concerned with financing small businesses and community centers.

The prisoners' club and Islamic committee say they represent what their names imply. The prisoners' club, which by its nature is close to Fatah, has a Bethlehem-based representative on a PA subcommittee dealing with the release of prisoners. In the past it has received PLO financial aid, which may now come from the PA. But dozens of institutions have received aid channeled through the PLO, now the PA, including Mokassed Hospital.

The issue of expelling agents of Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub is even more unclear. Most of the agents are Fatah activists who live in Jerusalem with Israeli residence permits. They are not infiltrated from outside the city, but are basically loyal to the PA.

However, according to outgoing Jerusalem police chief Arye Amit, "the activity of Jibril Rajoub [in Jerusalem] is virtually in the past tense."

But he defended the government's action. "We must remember it is a matter of symbolism. There is a war of attrition by the PA which tries from time to time to find a small opening in east Jerusalem."

Panel blames tax procedure for foreign worker injury

By Jerusalem Post Staff

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With great sorrow we announce the passing of
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The funeral will take place today, Thursday, March 6, 1997, at 2:00 p.m., at Netanya Cemetery.
Shiva at 82 Rambam Street, Ra'anana.
Mourning by his whole family

Emunah Jerusalem extends condolences to Sam Sebba on the loss of his dear wife
BELLA

Boys Town Jerusalem College of Applied Engineering
We extend heartfelt condolences to our dear friend and patron Mr. Sam Sebba and Family on the loss of his beloved wife
BELLA

Likud's Eitan calls for national unity government

By LIAT COLLINS

Coalition faction chairman Michael Eitan yesterday called for a national unity government and said the current coalition is on the verge of collapse.

Eitan made the statement in an unusual press conference with parliamentary reporters after a series of coalition defeats in the plenum. The last straw for Eitan was the defeat of the preliminary reading of an amendment to the Israel Electric Company Law that MK Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz) had proposed, but had government support.

Eitan is demanding that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu meet with coalition faction heads on Sunday to try to solve the problems he faces in the Knesset.

"I'm the coalition chairman without a coalition to chair," Eitan said. "I can't continue to accept responsibility under these circumstances."

He detailed the many failures the coalition had sustained in plenum votes in recent weeks and complained that bills in which the Left is interested can pass with an 80 MK majority vote while those that the ruling coalition wants have to struggle to get through.

"I have no doubt that if there were a national unity government, Har Homa would have passed by 80 votes," he said.

The events surrounding the bill on the electric company franchise - which Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon described as "an embarrassing spectacle" - only served to increase Eitan's feeling that the coalition is not functioning. The debate itself grew so unruly that Tichon ordered a 10-minute break

for tempers to cool down.

Many coalition MKs claimed that the IEC workers and management placed pressure on the Labor government to renew the franchise for 10 years in the last Knesset. Former finance minister Avraham Shohat said bonds had been issued on the basis of a 10-year franchise and the period could not now be cut. Labor MKs turned out in full to stop Rubinstein's amendment passing.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, responsible for energy, said he also opposed the bill, despite the official support of the government. Eitan, as coalition chairman, mobilized enough coal-

ition MKs for the bill to pass and argued with those who refused to support it, claiming they were violating coalition discipline.

Towards the end of the debate, Eitan suggested postponing the vote to a later date. Such a request requires a vote to unanimously support it. Eitan asked the coalition MKs who objected to the bill to at least agree to put off the vote on it. Sharon, Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Finance Minister Dan Meridor all agreed, but Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi suddenly opposed the delay. At this point Eitan told Hanegbi: "There is no more coalition. The coalition has disintegrated."

Meretz: Opposition not voting in Knesset

By LIAT COLLINS

The opposition is failing to make the most of Knesset votes, Meretz faction chairman Haim Oron told Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen in a letter yesterday.

The letter, claiming the Labor Party MKs were not turning up in sufficient numbers to get bills passed, was sent on a day in which the coalition suffered such a series of defeats that coalition chairman Michael Eitan threatened to resign and claimed the coalition was no longer functioning.

"We should pay attention to the coalition's disintegration and inability to concentrate its forces," Oron wrote. "I'm convinced that today if we were only organized properly we could determine almost the entire Knesset plenum agenda."

He listed a number of votes yesterday in which only a small number of Labor MKs, and sometimes only one, were present. Oron said the opposition should not be content with just filing no-confidence motions but should launch a concentrated attack on the government by consistently raising far-reaching private members bills.

The Rabbinate Bureau Kashrut Dept. The Religious Council Eilat

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at the Princess Hotel, Eilat

Following an undertaking by the hotel to bring the kashrut arrangements into line, the supervision of kashrut has been reinstated at the Princess Hotel, Eilat.

Validity of the kashrut certificate - one month!

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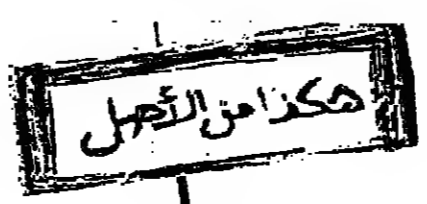
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Policeman dies of injuries from riot

By DAVID RUDGE

Chief-Supt. Effi Keinan, the police officer who was critically injured after being struck by a car during riots in Jisr e-Zarka village near Hadera on Sunday night, died at Haifa's Rambam Hospital yesterday.

Keinan, 37, head of the Haifa police district's intelligence unit, is survived by his wife, Leah, and three children. He will be buried at 11:30 a.m. today in the police section of Haifa's Neveh David Cemetery.

"Today I feel a bit foolish and naive. For so many years he was in danger and I didn't sense it," Leah Keinan said yesterday. "I had a feeling that small things would happen to him... but I never felt that something [this] had happened to him. He radiated so much strength, security, and ability that he convinced us all."

The announcement of his death cast a pall over the Haifa district police headquarters. His coworkers described him as a man of principles, a very conscientious and diligent colleague who would be sorely missed.

Supt. Shlomit Minkovski, spokesman for the district, said Keinan would not normally have been called out, but that night he was the duty officer and went to the scene to supervise operations aimed at restoring calm in the village.

Minkovski said the violence erupted when a group of residents attacked outsiders who had come to the village apparently to do business with local drug dealers. Stones, bottles, and other objects were thrown at the outsiders, several cars were damaged, and people were injured as the rioting spread. When police arrived, they became targets.

Reinforcements were called and police used tear gas to quell the rioting. The situation was almost under control when Keinan was struck by the car.

"One of the residents got into his car and drove toward where all the police were concentrated," Minkovski said. One policeman almost was run down by the car before it swerved and headed towards Keinan and Supt. Yitzhak Sadch.

"The other officer managed to jump clear, but not Effi, who was hit by the car and dragged for several meters," Minkovski said.

The driver, Mohammed Hamis A'amash, 23, was arrested and later remanded by Hadera Magistrate's Court on suspicion of attempted murder. He now may be charged with murder.

A'amash has denied deliberately driving at the officers, claiming he had tear gas in his eyes and because of that lost control of the car.



MDA president Prof. Shlomi Antebbe (left) and Palestinian Red Crescent Society president Dr. Fathi Arafat discuss ways their organizations can help one another, at a meeting at Jerusalem's American Colony Hotel yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

MDA and Red Crescent discuss cooperation

By JUDY SEGEL

Magen David Adom will help the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) train medics and ambulance drivers, while the PRCS will work for MDA's recognition by the International Red Cross (IRC) and its becoming a full member rather than just an observer.

These matters were discussed yesterday in the first official meeting between MDA president Prof. Shlomi Antebbe and PRCS president Dr. Fathi Arafat at the American Colony Hotel in Jerusalem. Arafat, the brother of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, also gladly accepted Antebbe's invitation to visit MDA headquarters in Tel Aviv.

The two physicians - both of them pediatricians and the youngest of the seven children in their families - found they have a lot in common during the two hours they discussed - "in a very warm atmosphere" - how to strengthen links between their humanitarian organizations.

Antebbe said Arafat asked for assistance in organizing the studies at the PRCS's new school for emergency medical technicians (including medics, blood collectors and ambulance drivers) in El Bireh; another one is due to open in Gaza. The MDA president said his organization has much experience and Arabic-language training materials for high-level courses.

Until now, the Civil Administration has facil-

itated courses at MDA for Palestinians, but now the Palestinians are setting up their own facilities, and ambulance drivers are urgently needed, Antebbe added.

The two will meet again soon in Tunisia at an assembly of IRC Mediterranean countries and further discuss plans for MDA to become a full-fledged member of the international first aid and rescue organization. Antebbe explained that while political opposition has prevented this so far, the peace process has broken down opposition among Arab countries, and that even before the Oslo process began, Arafat told the IRC that MDA should be accepted.

Arafat said he would like to cooperate fully with MDA in the fields in which it has expertise.

Panel blames lax procedures for foreign worker influx

By Jerusalem Post Staff

A disregard of administrative procedures by the former head of the Employment Service led to the "uncontrolled influx" of foreign workers, a committee appointed by Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai said in a report issued yesterday.

Former service director-general Alex Faran acted to change procedures when he was in office until the end of 1966, concentrating all authority in his hands without any form of checks and balances, the report said.

Faran said he was supported and encouraged to be personally involved in the issuing of permits by former labor and social affairs minister Ora Namir, the report said.

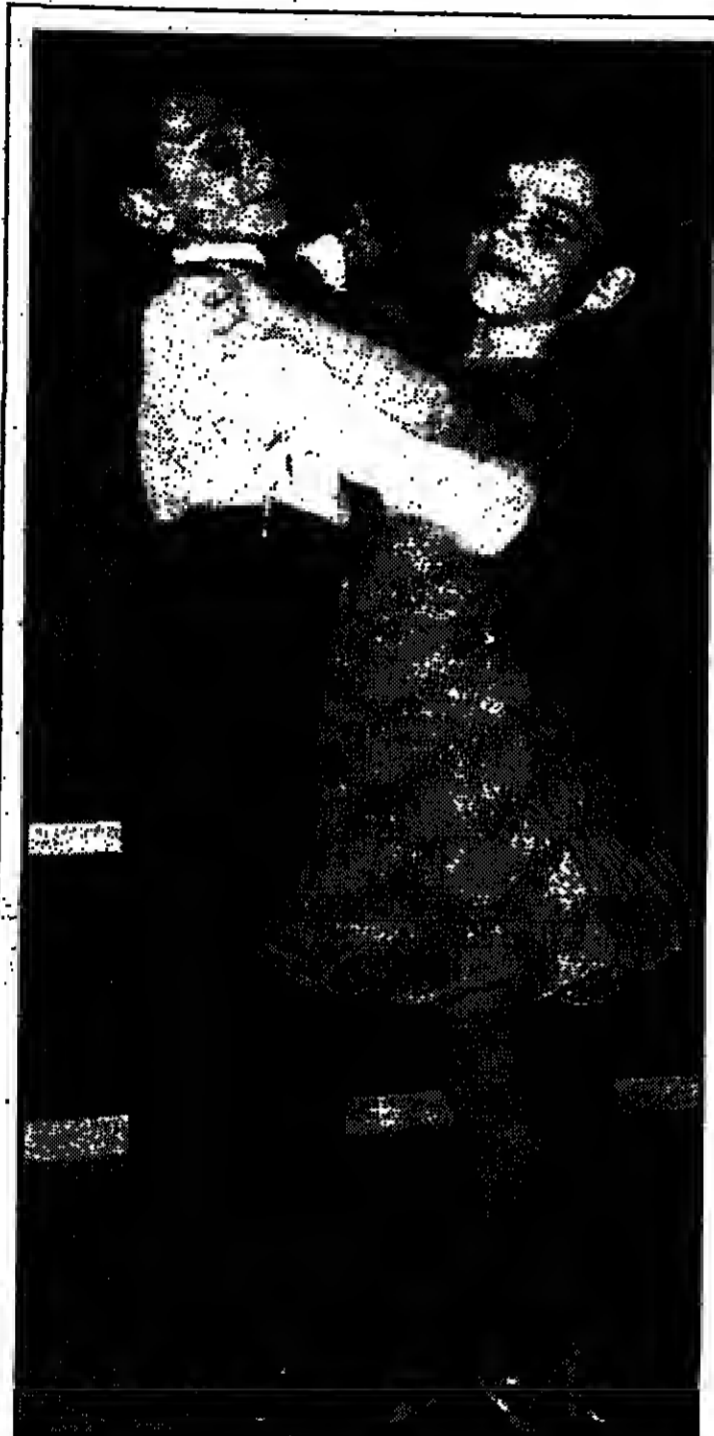
Faran also did not adequately monitor the granting of permits, and did not computerize the registry of foreign laborers, it added. Permits were granted to some 105,000 foreign workers by the end of 1996, compared to 13,000 at the beginning of 1994, the report said.

Instead of internal committees deciding on permits for foreign laborers according to sector, Faran formed committees with the participation of interested parties, whose dominance resulted in the issuing of 85 percent of the permits to the construction and agriculture sectors.

In the building sector, the Contractors Association became involved in the issuing of up to 70,000 work permits in 1996, while the Moshav Movement acted to obtain as many as 17,000 permits.

"In this way, the Employment Service transferred its authority to others who had special interests," the report said.

Yishai adopted the conclusions and recommendations of the committee, which was headed by ministry deputy director-general Eli Paz and included other ministry officials.



Future world champions?

Ten-year-olds Eli Tinkelman (left) and Yelena Tchatchko get ready to compete in the Third International Ballroom Dancing Competition to be held in Ashdod March 13-14. Six couples from the 135 pairs from 11 countries competing will reach the finals of each category (Latin, European, mixed). The couple winning the Latin crown in the 16-35-year-old group will represent Israel at the European championship in Germany in June. (Erez Helen Kaye)

Education Ministry chief: No preference for haredim

AT THE KNESSET

Bill would expand memorial day

BY LIAT COLLINS

Not a single shekel for additional classroom construction in the haredi sector has been allocated at the expense of other Education Ministry projects, ministry Director-General Ben-Zion Dell said yesterday.

Responding to accusations that such classrooms are allotted according to coalition deals, Dell said the budgets for their construction had been transferred to the ministry as a supplement approved by the Treasury and the Knesset Finance Committee.

Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) had denounced press reports that haredi MKs allocate classrooms according to coalition agreements, but he also criticized Dell for reportedly admitting this was the case.

Ravitz said that, according to the system determined this year, classrooms are built according to need. "The local authorities make their recommendations to the development authority and the authority determines its priorities according to principles of equality," he said.

A bill to broaden Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars to include terror victims passed its first reading yesterday. Proposed by Hanan Porat (National Religious Party), it passed 37 to nine with two abstentions.

The bill would allow relatives of terror victims to take the day off work for memorial services, just as the families of fallen soldiers can.

Porat said he proposed the bill at the suggestion of terror victims' families, who felt hurt they had no national day on which to remember their loved ones.

Labor submits no-confidence motion. The Labor faction has filed a motion of no-confidence in the prime minister over what it calls "his incitement against and attacks on the democratic regime" made at the Likud convention Sunday.

"There is no precedent for an Israeli prime minister inciting against the rule of law," said faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen. "The Labor faction has no confidence in the great demagogue and speaker Binyamin Netanyahu."

Porat proposed the bill, which is supported by the government. Avraham Porat (Shinui) opposed it, saying the ban would lead to illegal advertising in public places instead, such as the sort of announcements seen in London telephone booths. Porat has submitted a bill to regulate prostitution by banning it from public and residential areas.

'Ambulance chasing' bill passes first reading. A bill to bar commercial interests from bothering bereaved families in the first hours of their loss passed preliminary reading yesterday. Under the bill, those who know of a death because of their work - such as hospital or ambulance staff, police, or burial societies - would not be allowed to pass on the name of relatives to commercial enterprises. The mail boxes of bereaved families are commonly flooded with fliers for stonemasons and other such services just after they learn of their loss.

TV license fee may be outlawed. By a vote of 14 to nine, the Knesset passed preliminary reading of a bill by Benny Elon (Molodet) which would abolish the Broadcasting Authority license fee. The authority should be able to fund its programs through commercials and other outside financing for cultural programs, Elon said.

'Same language' bill passes first reading. Public bodies would be obliged to reply to citizens in the same language they used, according to a bill which passed preliminary reading yesterday. Proposed by Yisrael Ba'aliya faction chairman Roman Bronfman, the bill did not have government support. The bill refers only to inquiries or requests made in Hebrew, English, Arabic, Russian, and Amharic.

New body set up to help scam victims

By ESTHER HECHT

Hundreds of immigrants from the CIS who lost their life's savings when they tried to transfer them here have found support in a new public committee.

The committee, comprised of professionals, academics and Knesset members, held its first meeting on Tuesday to discuss ways to persuade the government to resolve the immigrants' plight.

The immigrants lost thousands of dollars each when they tried to transfer money through companies to which aliya counselors referred them. Many of the counselors operated in conjunction with the Liaison Bureau, which is under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office.

Last week Ha'aretz reported yet another set of victims of a money-transfer scheme, this one in Siberia. It was run by Shmuel Azarch, today an adviser to the prime minister on immigration and absorption.

A public committee is necessary because "there are so many agencies that deal with immigrants, yet no one is really dealing with our problem," said Vera Gutkina, spokeswoman for more than 500 victims from Russia.

The police are not investigating, though more than 90 complaints have been filed, because the former attorney-general and the State Attorney's Office instructed them not to investigate, a police

spokesman said.

On December 30, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu raised the immigrants' hopes when he appointed a committee, headed by the justice minister and including the finance and absorption ministers, to examine their problem and present its recommendations within 30 days. More than a month after the set date, the committee has yet to present its recommendations.

Both the Russian and the Ukrainian groups have filed civil

suits against the companies involved and their heads, the Jewish Agency and the State of Israel. But legal action could drag on for years.

MK Naomi Blumenthal, head of the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee, has submitted a private member's bill calling for the establishment of a committee to determine compensation, to be paid by the state, for all immigrants from the CIS who lost money in similar schemes.

Burg: 1.2 million potential immigrants still in CIS

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Jewish Agency emissaries in the CIS are "knocking on the doors of Jews there, and not waiting for them to knock on ours," according to Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg.

Burg told the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee on Tuesday that there are some 1.2 million potential olim in the CIS. That number includes 700,000 families in which both husband and wife are Jewish, Burg said, adding that the sophistication of the governments in Russia and the rest of the CIS requires new organization by the agency.

Sixty percent to 70% of the agency's Aliya Department budget goes to the periphery in the CIS, since there is a greater chance to convince Jews there to immigrate, and at a smaller cost, he said.

Committee chairwoman MK Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) said that despite the fact that the governments in the CIS had become more stable, there is no guarantee that the Iron Curtain will not be lowered again, and Jews forbidden to leave. For that reason, she said, these Jews should be considered Jews in distress.

BIBI: STOP THE BUILDING ON HAR HOMA

The building on Har Homa threatens the continuity of the peace process, and further damages the fabric of coexistence in Jerusalem. Unilateral decisions are not the way to achieve either peace or security.

Join in a demonstration near Har Homa to oppose the construction

Saturday evening March 8, 6:30 p.m. Parking lot, Liberty Bell Park

PEACE NOW

THE JERUSALEM POST

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The right decision

The decision was the correct one. It overturned some precedents, and its timing could certainly have been better. But the decision earlier this week not to allow Yoram Turbowicz, the former head of the government's Antitrust Authority, to take over immediately as Bezeq's managing director, rightly placed public propriety above personal considerations.

intention of resigning from the Antitrust Authority. Although this is true, it still ignores the need to establish precedents based on principles. Livnat and Turbowicz also tried to preempt objections to the new appointment by volunteering that Turbowicz would refrain from personally representing Bezeq before Antitrust Authority deliberations. Although this is commendable, it still leaves room for conflicts of interest.

Anarchy in Albania

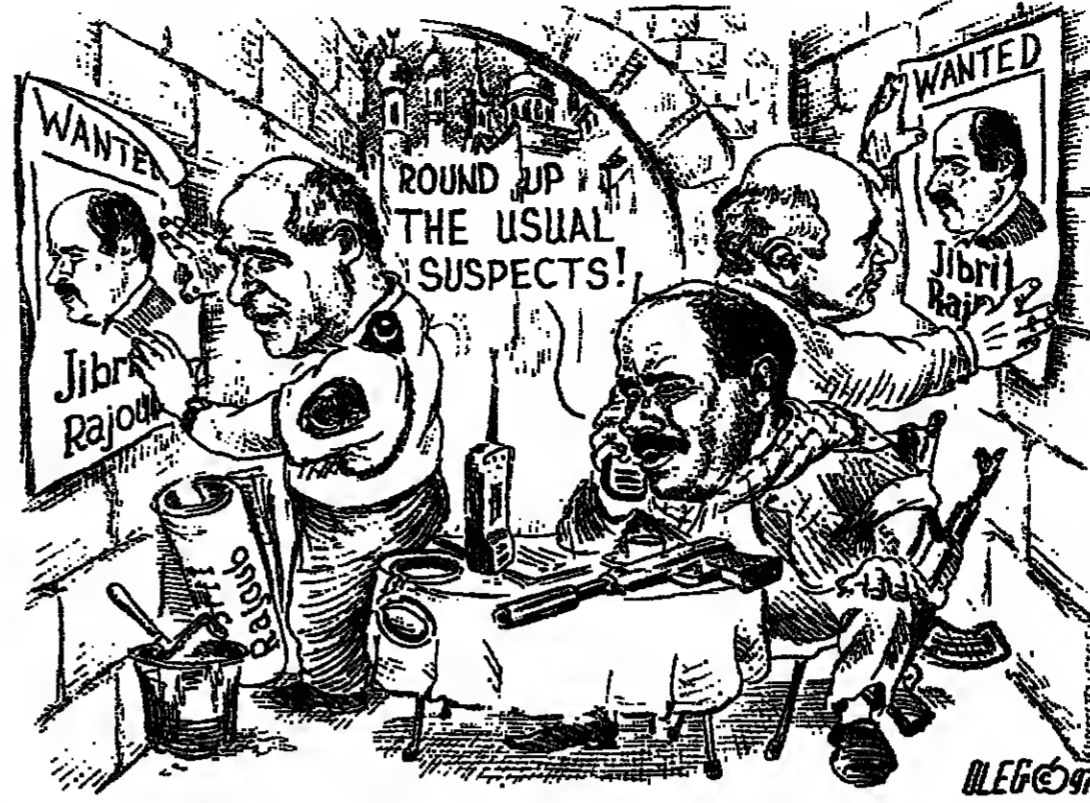
Once again in the Balkans, the European Union has backed a wrong horse in a troubled country and is now scrambling to formulate a cohesive policy out of its former ignorance and blunders. In Albania, the signs of trouble loom for a corrupt and tottering right-wing government have been plain for all to see for months.

US State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns was as disappointing as any European yesterday, when he ruled out stopping \$27 million in American aid to Tirana as "unproductive." He did say the government should "restore democracy, restore democratic rights to the opposition, restore rights to the journalists who are being intimidated."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PEACE WITH THE GOLAN PALESTINIAN VIOLATION FUNDS FOR REFUSENIKS
Sir, - In 1979, then-prime minister Begin made the regretful mistake when he gave all of Sinai to Egypt, and dismantled Yamit. This, together with the loss of hundreds of our soldiers in his war in Lebanon, may have caused his retreat from public life.

OPINION



A spinner of stories

Stunned and outraged senior Likud members are pulling out their hair in frustration over their stage-manipulated committee meeting on Sunday. We would like to remind them of Baron Friedrich von Munchhausen, the 18th-century storyteller.

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG
But nothing will quieten Egypt's official hate campaign toward Israel. If Netanyahu thinks that delaying the bulldozers for a few days will get Mubarak to embrace him like some long-lost cousin, he and his advisers are living in cloud-cuckoo-land.

During his speech, Netanyahu promised a bonus for Israelis who travel frequently between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Not only would they benefit from the new, fast road, a railway line would also be built alongside it, ensuring that the distance between the two cities could be covered in 22 minutes.

Unexpected rider to the decision: The construction of some 2,600 units for Jews on Har Homa would be balanced by 3,500 new units for Arabs in the Jerusalem area. The prime minister then made a statistical mistake. He said that 78 percent of the Greater Jerusalem populace was Jewish, and the rest Arab.

There is only one feasible explanation for this procrastination. Most of the delays occurred before the controversial Likud central committee meeting. Netanyahu's promises about starting work immediately on the road and on Har Homa were just wool pulled over the eyes of the Likud faithful, to persuade them that the prime minister could not only talk tough, but act decisively too.

Having asserted the right to build at Har Homa, Netanyahu should shelve the project. er violent confrontation are even more dangerous. When Palestinian leaders call building at Har Homa "a declaration of war" and warn that "there will be an explosion," they do a grave disservice to the cause of reconciliation we share.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



That's Marilyn Monroe in a rather unfamiliar role: as a porn star. Proof of Marilyn's sordid past surfaced in Spain at a film festival. The grainy, six-minute black-and-white film, made in 1947, showed the Hollywood legend at the age of 21, bare-breasted and engaging in explicit sex acts.

Point made

MARK ROSENBLUM

Prime Minister Netanyahu's rocky tenure has been a series of moves and feints in many directions. The Har Homa affair is the latest example of his indecision about where and how he wants to lead his nation. Last fall's Hasmonean Tunnel fiasco brought needless bloodshed and almost scuttled what was left of the peace process. The tunnel was said by many to be a wake-up call. Netanyahu was summoned to Washington and treated as an equal to the unpopular Arafat, and denied the star treatment his predecessors had become accustomed to.

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, including 'CREDIT CARD HOLDERS', 'FAX OR PHONE YOUR ADS IN.', and contact information for 'JERUSALEM: Tel. 02-538-8408'.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: 'הכרזת הנחיה' (Declaration of Emergency).

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: Ticker, Last, Change. Includes AMEX and NASDAQ indices.

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MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

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INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table with columns: Ticker, Last, Change. Lists international shares.

NEW YORK

Large table with columns: Ticker, Last, Change. Lists various New York market data.

LAST CHANGE

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TASE ROUNDUP

Mishtanim 255.82 ▲ 0.81% Maof 263.3 ▲ 0.10%

By ROBERT DANIEL

Stocks closed higher yesterday, following the rise on Wall Street.

The shekel weakened against the dollar, potentially helping Israel's exporters.

State-controlled telecom-services company Bezeq dropped 1.75 percent to NIS 8.51, holding back the Maof index.

The Mishtanim Index of 100 most-traded issues rose 0.81% to 255.82, while the Maof Index of 25 top stocks rose 0.1% to 263.38.

Key Representative Rates: US Dollar...NIS 3.3670 +0.11%

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES: DJ Industrials...+0.15%

OTHER STOCK MARKET INDEXES: FTSE 100...+0.2%

DOLLAR CROSS-RATES: Pound...\$1.645

US COMMODITIES: Crude Oil...\$27.50

LONDON COMMODITIES: Gold...\$375.00

SPOT MARKET METALS (US): Silver...\$4.10

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES: Gold...\$354.00

LONDON METAL FIXES: Gold...\$355.75

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

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Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

European bourses score records

LONDON (Reuters) - Major European bourses hit record levels yesterday, after US central bank head Alan Greenspan soothed investors' worst fears for now, before closing below their highest levels for the day.

The London and Paris stock markets rebounded to scale new peaks after Greenspan, who has spooked investors on various occasions with warning comments, again denied he was trying to talk Wall Street down.

He said current share price levels could be justified if earnings forecasts were right.

German shares rose further in after-hours electronic trading to add to a record close in earlier floor trade, aided by a steady dollar, good news for exporters.

"There are some decent volumes there and the greenback is helping, especially with the exporters. The slogan at the moment seems to be - enjoy it and let the cash roll in," said Josh Waiblinger of equity sales at BHF Bank in Frankfurt.

Gold slid to end London trading below \$353, down around \$7 on the day, on news of Swiss plans to sell gold from reserves to finance a fund for Holocaust victims and others.

Bullion analysts said the amount involved was unlikely to be large compared with overall market turnover but the news added to the pressure on gold.

Concern that central banks would sell gold to help meet the economic criteria for joining European economic and monetary union had dented the gold price in past months.

The London stock market, Europe's busiest, had opened lower after a 60-point fall in the Dow Jones industrial average overnight and some disappointing corporate results.

Greenspan's reassuring comments later helped it climb into previously uncharted territory although weaker bond prices then brought it down from its highs.

French shares also recovered from early losses to hit a record close but were below an earlier historic high scored after a rally underpinned by dollar strength and the rise on Wall Street, dealers said.

WALL STREET REPORT

Stocks rise as Greenspan eases market fears

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks closed sharply higher yesterday after Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's latest comments seemed to ease fears the central bank might be planning some action to slow the stock market's rise.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average closed up 93.13 points, or 1.36 percent, at 6,945.85. In the broader market, advancing issues beat declines 15-9 on active volume of 531 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

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Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110. The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning. Eran - Emotional First Aid - 1201, also Jerusalem 561-0303, Tel Aviv 546-1111 (children/youth 896-1113), Haifa 067-2222, Beer Sheva 649-4333, Netanya 825-5110, Karmiel 988-8770, Kiryat Sava 767-4555, Hadera 634-6789.

WIZO hotlines for battered women 02-851-4111, 03-546-1133 (also in Russian), 07-637-6310, 08-855-0506 (also in Amharic). Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9181 (men), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0633, Eilat 633-1977. Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association support service 02-624-7876.

DUTY HOSPITALS: Jerusalem: Shaare Zedek (internal, obstetrics); Hadassah Ein Karem (surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, ENT); Bikur Holim (pediatrics). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery). Netanya: Laniado.

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